A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, January 20. 1708.

THE third Article of Complaints, which I propoſed to ſpeak of, is that of Emiſſaries and ſecret Inſtruments employ'd and bribed to divide us, to miſrepreſent the publick Affairs on one Hand, to palliate and excuſe on another, and to manage Parties among us.

As to thoſe Gentlemen who have been ſo free with my Reputation that Way, would they lay aſide the ſecret Party Reaſons from which they have judged, they might eaſily be convinc'd of the Crime of their raſh Cenſure, and if they are not, they may ſee how little I regard the Foulneſs of their Calumny, they may ſee I am not afraid of the ſtricteſt Scrutiny into, nor the ſevereſt Cenſures upon theſe Sort of People, let them turn the Charge upon me if they can.

He that endeavours to detect Villains, to expoſe the Enemies of our Conſtitution; that prompts and preſſes you to Moderation, Peace and Temper one to another, to Union, Charity and good Neighbourhood; that argues from Principles of Truth and Liberty, and faithfully oppoſes all that invade you, he can be no Emiſſary; it would be an Honour to be employ'd in ſuch a Work, and you ought, *whatever you think*, to eſteem ſuch your Friends.

But ſince it is ſomething hard to diſtinguiſh what we mean, I ſhall enter a little into the Characters of theſe Sort of People, that if poſſible, they may have a Mark ſet upon them, that honeſt Men may know them; and I am the freer to examine, who is or is not employ'd, and how, why, and by whom, that the Villany of thoſe, that have

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put their Fingers to their native Countries Deſtruction, may be detected.

It is not my Work to bring Perſons and Names into Queſtion; I am pleas'd with the Hopes that there ſeems a Probability, both may ſoon be diſcover'd; and I have no Fear, but that it will fall upon ſuch as we have had always Reaſon to believe drove at a Subverſion of the preſent Eſtabliſhment; but of this by it ſelf. I ſhall now take the Freedom to ſpeak a Word or two about Emiſſaries, or Perſons employ'd ſecretly, and the neceſſary Obſervations I ſhall make upon it, I aſſure you, ſhall be very impartial.

And for the Character in general; I take an Emiſſary to be a Perſon employ'd by ſome other Perſon or Party, either by his Pen or his Tongue, to cry up or cry down, accuſe or excuſe, palliate or exaſperate on one ſide, and on another, in Favour of his Employers. The particular Crime of this Sort of People is, that they are not directed by Truth of Fact, but meer Party-Policy. Their Buſineſs is to amuſe, deceive, embarraſs and perplex; when they act upon their adverſe Party, they accuſe, aggravate and enlarge upon every Miſtake, heighten every Loſs, leſſen every Advantage, and upon all Occaſions ſpeak to their Diſadvantage: When they act on their own Party, they magnifie their Actions, make inviduous Compariſons, panegyrick Perſons without Fame, and Actions without Merit; and in ſhort, their Buſineſs is to be always placing Things to be look'd at obliquely not directly, that Shadows may deceive your Sight, and Miſrepreſentations may ſtate Actions, not as they are, but as they would have them to be to ſerve a Party.

Of theſe Sort of People there may be very many Sorts for ought I know among us, more than we know of; but before we come to ſpeak of the Meſſengers, let us talk a little of the Perſons that ſend them, and the Purpoſes they are ſent for.

As to the Perſons ſending them, they muſt be underſtood here in general to be the Heads of Parties; let thoſe Parties be who they will, in this Caſe it is neceſſary to examine, what Parties ſtand in need of this Artifice, and if this will not help to detect the Miſſionaries, I am miſtaken.

Thoſe, whoſe Deſign is to diſturb, to diſquiet, to divide, and to embroil, theſe really ſtand in need of Inſtruments and ſecret Emiſſaries, to act clandeſtinely, to be ever raiſing Surmiſes, making ill natur'd Suggeſtions, raiſing falſe Reports, ſpreading falſe News, and by all Manner of Artifice to wheedle and deceive the People; and innumerable Inſtances we have of the Experiment, and ſome Knowledge we have had both of the Parties and Perſons, and it were ſome Service to the Publick, that theſe were yet farther detected; and perhaps I may make an Eſſay at that difficult Work e're long.

I have heard, that it is the Practice in ſome Countries, when rich Men die to hire *Mock-Mourners* to raiſe a Cry and Lamentation at their Death, tho' perhaps really not one Tear is ſhed for the Loſs; thus we have People employ'd here to make great Out-cries and Lamentations at our Loſſes, who we know are really pleaſed at the Occaſion, and are glad both at the Loſſes themſelves, and at the Advantage they think they give to their Party to triumph over us; theſe are indeed Mock-Mourners, who, *as the* Phariſees *made long Prayers in publick Places that they might be ſeen of Men*, make long Speeches in publick Aſſemblies, that they may be heard of Men—Of whom with the Text, I think, we may ſay without Prophaneneſs, *They have their Reward*, they have the ſham Applauſe they want, and they do the Miſchief they aim at— Indeed they have but too much Succeſs.

You have the *Jacobite* Party, and the *High Church* Party, and the Malecontent State Party; theſe have all their Emiſſaries, as they ſay, tho' we know them but by their Works, and theſe go about every Day, like the Mock-Mourners, with dejected Countenances, crying DISMAL, DISMAL, and much Cry we have had with them of late, of which perhaps the Cauſes are not far off from being made very publick.

But here are others, they ſay, who are employ'd to palliate Matters, and ſoften Things, and to keep People eaſie, while others wheedle them, to leſſen and cover the Faults of great Men, and make Excuſes for all Things they do; theſe are indeed the

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worſt Sort of People imaginable, and ought to be expoſed upon all Occaſions.

But then methinks, Gentlemen, you that rave ſo much at Mercenaries and Miſſionaries, ſhould back your Satyrs with ſome Names, or at leaſt ſpeak ſo plainly, that Things and People might be gueſs'd at; for my Part I have had my Share in Satyrs, and it has always been my Way to ſpeak ſo much plain *Engliſh*, as that the World might underſtand Things—And ſome Folks think I have ſpoken too plainly, from whoſe Opinions I profeſs to differ, for either the Satyr is juſt or it is unjuſt; if it be juſt, it ought to be pointing as well as pointed, and the Crime ſhould deſcribe the Perſon, or the Perſon the Crime; if it be not juſt, it ceaſes to be a Satyr, and becomes an abominable Slander—A Thing no Man will be concern'd in, but he that would rob a Houſe, murther an Innocent, and betray a Father, if he had the ſame Occaſion.

Now, Gentlemen Complainers of all ſides, come to an Account with us, and let us ſee whoſe Back ſide is blackeſt; (1.) Who is the Man that has cover'd the Crimes, or extenuated the Treachery of our great Men, that has ſet up to excuſe their Actions, right or wrong, and what are the Crimes which theſe Mercenaries have excuſed? It is a rare Subject for a Satyr, and I ſee Good-Will enough in the World for it, and ill Nature enough too. O begin it, Gentlemen, that the Emiſſaries may be detected, and the great Men's Crimes may be expoſed; that the firſt may be hang'd, and the laſt diſplac'd, for both muſt deſerve it.

And now, Gentlemen Authors of all ſides, that cry out of this Evil, will you come to a fair Challenge, and ſubſcribe with me this Purgation.

May every Man that has taken, accepted, or received, or ſhall take, accept, or receive the leaſt Fee, Bribe, Conſideration or Reward, either to write, or ſpeak, or to forbear writing or ſpeaking any thing, for or againſt Perſon or Party, but what he firmly believed in his Conſcience to be Truth, or was perſwaded in his Conſcience he ought to write, ſpeak, or forbear writing or ſpeaking, and which he would have ſo wrote or ſaid, or ſo forborn without any ſuch Reward or Conſideration; every Man that has been prevail'd upon by Fee or Favour, to defend great Mens Errors, or Party Errors, to palliate publick Crimes, conceal wicked publick Deſigns, and leſſen publick Miſcarriages, ay, or to aggravate Miſtakes, exaſperate Parties, form Diſcouragements, ſpread falſe News, in order to encreaſe our Diviſions, heighthen Animoſities, and farther diſunite us on any ſide—In ſhort, may every Mercenary, every Deceiver, every Changer of Sides, every Divider or Promoter of Diviſions, either by Word or Writing, heartily embrace this Puniſhment.

Let him be hated and deſpiſed of all honeſt Men, let him be detected and mark'd out, that all Men may know him; let his Treacheries be expoſed, let him be ſtript of all the Price of his Villany to his Country, let his Native Place ſpue him out, and abandon'd of Human Society, let him be the Shame of his Profeſſion, and a Terror to all that ſhall be tempted to his ſcandalous Employment.

I thank GOD, I can freely ſign this and much more; and I cannot but invite all thoſe that write for Parties to come into the Engagement, and we ſhall ſoon ſee, which Parties employ Emiſſaries, and which do not; who are mercenary and who not; and who to conceal their own Briberies cry out of other Peoples.

I ſhall be plainer in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Gave you in a late Paper a ſhort Hint at my Deſign of forming a general State of our Trade; I told you, that the Wealth, the Glory, the great Families, and the Eſſence of this Nation *as a People*, had their Original in Trade; I think, I need not tell you

you now, that to preſerve all theſe, there is no human Concern can rationally equal that of our Care, to preſerve, encreaſe and ſupport our Commerce; this ought of all our Thoughts to have the firſt Share, I mean as to Matters of Proſperity; and leſt malicious Objectors ſhould cavil here, I'll put it more particular, for I muſt explain my ſelf as I go, or elſe Malice, that always goes with her Mouth open, ſnaps at every Trifle. I divide the Care and Concern of the Nation among theſe Generals, Religion, Conſtitution, and Commerce; Trade, as it is the laſt of theſe three, is the firſt of all the ſubſequent Concerns of the Kingdom, and I rank it hand in hand with Religion and Conſtitution, not by Way of Equallity, but as it is the great Auxiliary, which enables us to protect, defend and preſerve the other from all its Oppoſers.

I muſt but abridge Things here, for this is a vaſt Ocean of Diſcourſe, and it was once my Deſign to have made it the principal Subject of one whole Volume, *but Satan hindred*; Feud, Parties and daily Occurences, which forced me to long Digreſſions, prevented; I do not pretend to go through it now, but I muſt ſay, what the preſent needful Exigence of Trade calls for, it ſhall be ſhort, and I hope to the Purpoſe.

I have noted, that the Wealth of our Trade conſiſts of two Sorts, our Exports, and our Home Conſumption; I may perhaps find a Time to ſpeak of our Exports, but at preſent my Eye is upon our Home Conſumption.

The War has as it were put our general Commerce upon many Revolutions, and the Interruptions of our Trade in its ſeveral Chanels abroad has been naturally accompany'd with new Turns of Trade; I might inſtance in many, but you will ſee what I mean, when I put you in mind how we trade to *Perſia* by the *North*, and carry our Cloth down the *Wolga* to *Aſtracan* on the *Caſpian* Sea, from whence the *Armenian* Merchants fetch it by Sea, and convey it to *Iſpahan*; that our *Eaſt* Country Trade is tranſpoſed from *Narva* to *Arch-Angel*, our *Dantzick* Trade to *Amſterdam*, our *Turkey* Trade to *Legborn*, our *Cadiz* Trade to *Liſbon*, our *Malaga* Trade to *Gibraltar*, and the like.

In Conſequence of theſe Interruptions and Alterations, it is my Opinion, and I doubt not, if you proceed in this War, you will find it neceſſary to make Revolutions in your Home Trade; and ſome you have made already, and others have been aim'd at; I'll hint at a few, and ſpeak to them in their Turn; ſome perhaps may have been for our Good, ſome not.

The Revolutions already made, and which deſerve our Notice, are ſuch as, (1.) The opening the Trade to *Flanders*, which by the moſt prepoſterous Law we ever made in Trade, was before lock'd up againſt us. (2.) The ſtopping the Sluces of *Eaſt-India* Silks, which having ſtood open for a long Time, had let in a Deluge, that bid fair for impoveriſhing our own Manufactures, and ſtarving half a Million of our People. (3.) The turning the Channel of our Wine Trade from an Enemy's Country, where we purchaſed it all with our ready Money, to the Countries of our Allies, who are not only enriched by our Trade with them, but to our infinite Advantage take all our own Manufactures for the Return, and ſend us Bullion into the Bargain. (4.) The erecting ſundry foreign Manufactures in our own Nation, which before we were obliged to buy abroad, and conſequently employing other People, let our own Poor lie idle.

What Steps in Trade remain to be taken to our Advantage, I ſhall ſpeak to hereafter.

* * * The Solution of the *Ænigma* will be publiſh'd in *Thurſday's* REVIEW.

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